GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1560
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2008
HIGH DROP OUT RATE AT SECONDARY LEVEL
Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Mane Smt. Nivedita;Yadav Shri Anirudh Prasad (Sadhu);Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the percentage of school dropouts was brought down considerably at the primary level but it remained as high as 62-63 per cent at the Secondary level;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a): The drop out rates has come down, from 31.5 per cent in 2003- 04 to 29.0 per cent in 2004-05 at primary stage (Classes I-V), and from 62.7 per cent to 61.9 per cent at Secondary stage (Classes I- X) during the same period .

(b) & (c) : The socio-economic and school related factors affect dropouts. A multi-pronged approach has been adopted under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for reducing dropout rates. These include, interalia, strengthening of schools and improving the quality of education through improvement in school infrastructure, recruitment of additional teachers, provision of annual school grants, regular training of teachers, regular academic support to teachers etc. In addition, interventions under SSA also aim at building community support, flexible schooling for the hardest to reach children, special provision to promote education of girls, as well as children with special need. The Mid - day Meal programme also complements the strategy to reduce dropout rates. Central Government has decided to implement a centrally sponsored Scheme for Universalisation of Access to and Improvement of Quality of Education at Secondary Stage (SUCCESS) with the objective to make secondary education of good quality available, accessible and affordable to all young persons by providing a secondary school within 5 kilometer of every habitation. Besides, it is also proposed to set up 6,000 good quality secondary schools at block level, at the rate of one school in each block, which will serve as benchmark of excellence for other schools in the area. It has also been decided to implement various incentive schemes like
(i) `National Means cum Merit Scholarship`,
(ii) a National Incentive Scheme for Girls to pursue Secondary Education and
(iii) a Scheme for Girls` Hostels for Girls studying in secondary classes; which would also help in reducing drop out rates.